Example Design/Review Checklist Bioretention Practices

Plan Submission Date		
Project Name		
Site Plan/Permit Number		
Owner		
BMP Designer	Phone Number	
General Contractor		
Signature and stamp of licensed profes		
Plan Status		
Approved Legend:	_ ✓ - Complete	
Not Approved	Inc Incomplete/Incorrect	
	N/A - Not Applicable	
Facility Type: Level 1	Level 2	
Hydraulic Configuration:	Type of Pre-Treatment Facility:	
☐ On-line facility	☐ Sedimentation chamber	
☐ Off-line facility	☐ Plunge pool	
in the racinty	☐ Stone diaphragm	
	☐ Grass filter strip	
	☐ Grass channel	
	□ Other:	
I. SUPPORTING INFORMATION Provide a concise narrative describing the storm this practice fits into the overall plan, and stating a Show the location of this BMP on the site map, incomplete and the storm of the st	all assumptions made in the design. cluding the following: uries and acreage.	
limits of the floodplain).	Distriction of an area of the month of the	
Areas of site compensated for in water quality calculations If the Bioretention facility will receive runoff from a hotspot land use, then an underdrain must be		
Bioretention facilities must not be located where flow from sources such as sump pumps, irrigatic pool discharge, or other flows that are not stormw. Provide topography for the site area, showing that Provide a soil map for site and area of facility, sho Show the soil boring locations and provide the so and descriptions (at least one boring must be taken the source of the sour	on water, chlorinated wash-water or swimming ater runoff. I the slope of the CDA is between 1% and 5%. wing CDA and facility boundaries oil boring logs with Unified Soils Classifications	
the depth where biofiltration or bioinfiltration is a groundwater table/bedrock or karst is identified underdrain, whereas HSG-A soils generally do no	designed to occur, to ensure that depth to the l). HSG-B, C or D soils typically require an	

	Provide the results of soil infiltration rate testing to confirm a minimum subsoil infiltration rate of > 0.5 inch/hour (> 1 inch/hour in order to avoid the use of an underdrain). The number of infiltration tests is based on the scale of the planned infiltration facility area – see Tables 9.2 and 9.3 in Stormwater Design Specification No. 9 and Appendix 8-A in Stormwater Design Specification No. 8).
	Confirm the depth to seasonal high groundwater table (minimum 2 ft. below the design bottom of the facility, or 1 ft. if in a coastal area and a large-diameter underdrain is used that only partially dewaters the bed)
	Confirm the depth to bedrock (minimum 2 ft. below the design bottom of the facility) If karst is present, a detailed geotechnical investigation is recommended to ensure the installation does not aggravate potential karst impacts (e.g., sinkholes, etc.) and an impermeable liner (recommend a min. 30 mil PVC Geo-membrane liner covered by 8 to 12 oz./sq. yd. non-woven geotextile) must be place beneath the bioretention facility. Where karst is present, there must be at least 3 feet of vertical separation between the bottom of the bioretention facility and the karst layer. Furthermore, only micro-scale or small-scale bioretention facilities not exceeding 20,000 sq. ft. may be used, and they must be designed <i>ONLY</i> to meet the Level 1 design criteria (incorporating an underdrain). Identify potential conflicts with other (existing?) structural components (pipes, underground utilities, etc.)
	Avoid installing geotextile filter fabric along the <i>bottom</i> of bioretention facilities (causes clogging).
II. COI	MPUTATIONS
A. Hyd	Determine the runoff curve numbers (pre- and post-developed conditions), providing the worksheets. Determine the time of concentration (pre- and post-developed conditions), providing the worksheets. Generate hydrographs (pre- and post-developed conditions) for appropriate design and safety storms (USDA-NRCS methods or modified rational-critical storm duration method) Urban Bioretention facilities, in particular, should be designed to fully drain within 24 hours following each storm.
B. Hyd	Ensure that 4 to 5 feet of hydraulic head (3 to 5 feet for Urban Bioretention) are available above the bottom elevation needed to tie the underdrain into the storm drain system, in order to drive runoff through the filter bed. Less head is necessary for HSG-A soils. Specify assumptions and coefficients used. Provide a stage-storage table and curve Provide for large storm overflow or bypass Provide storm drainage and hydraulic grade line calculations.
C. Wat	Provide a tabulation of land cover areas (impervious cover, managed turf, forest cover) in the CDA, pollutant load, pollutant load removal, and treatment volume requirements, all generated by using the Virginia Runoff Reduction Method spreadsheet (provide spreadsheet) Provide specific sizing/dimensions determined from criteria in Stormwater Design Specification No. 9.

III. PLAN REQUIREMENTS

A. BMF	P Plan View Information
	Show the limits of clearing and grading, noting that they should be identified and protected by
	acceptable signage, silt fence, snow fence, or other comparable barrier.
	Show the layout and dimensions of the bioretention facilities / planters. NOTE: The maximum
	contributing drainage area for a micro-bioretention facility (e.g., rain garden) is 0.5 acre (3% of the
	CDA or 5% of the roof area for Level 1 or 4% of the CDA or 6% of the roof area for Level 2); for an
	urban bioretention facility is 2,500 sq. ft., and for a conventional bioretention facility is 2.5 acres.
	Observe proper setbacks from building foundations, down-gradient slopes, etc.:
	5 feet down-gradient from wet utility lines. NOTE: Dry utility lines (e.g., gas, electric, cable and
	telephone, etc.) may cross under bioretention areas if they are double-cased.
	10 feet down-gradient from building foundations for urban bioretention. NOTE: If the facility is lined and an underdrain is used, there is no minimum setback requirement.
	5 feet down-gradient and 25 feet up-gradient from building foundations for micro-scale (rain
	garden) facilities
	10 feet down-gradient and 50 feet up-gradient from building foundations for standard
	bioretention facilities with a 0.5 acre or smaller CDA
	25 feet down-gradient and 100 feet up-gradient from building foundations for standard
	bioretention facilities with a CDA of between 0.5 to 2.5 acres.
	If an in-ground basement or other special conditions exist, the design should be reviewed by a
	licensed engineer. NOTE: A special footing or drainage design may be used to justify a
	reduction of the setbacks noted above.
	In cold climate areas, 25 feet from roadways to prevent potential frost heaving of the pavement
	100 feet from any water supply well (50 feet if the biofilter is lined)
	Design Urban Bioretention, in particular, to minimize interference with pedestrian traffic and allow for
	frequent landscape and facility maintenance
	Geometry:
	Level 1: Length of the shortest flow path/overall length = 0.3 <i>OR</i> other design methods are used to prevent short-circuiting; a one-cell design (not including the pre-treatment cell.
	Level 2: Length of the shortest flow path/overall length = 0.8 <i>OR</i> other design methods are
	used to prevent short-circuiting; a two-cell design (not including the pre-treatment cell.
	Show the location of all conveyance system outfalls (inlets) into the facility with pre-treatment and
	outlet protection designed in accordance with the VE&SCH
	Ensure the proper geometry and orientation of the facility and inlets to the facility to avoid short-
	circuiting
	Show the top-of-bank and basin bottom elevations
	Show the treatment volume and maximum water surface elevations for all appropriate design storms
	and safety storms
	Show the location of the underdrain, if applicable
	Ensure and show adequate maintenance access to the facility
	Show the location of the observation well
B. BMF	P Section Views & Related Details
1. Micr	o-Bioretention Facility (Rain Garden)
	Pre-treatment:
	Level 1: External (leaf screens, grass filter strip, energy dissipators, etc.)
	Level 2: External <i>plus</i> a grass filter strip
	Inflow: From sheet flow or a roof leader
	Facility may be a single-cell design (can be divided into smaller cells at downspout locations)
	Maximum ponding depth: 6 inches. Show the elevations of treatment volume and maximum design water surface elevations for all
	appropriate design storms and safety storms
	Show the facility rim elevations: constructed height and settled height (allowing for 10% settlement).
	Ensure adequate freeboard

	Provide a typical grading section through the facility Filter media:
	Depth: minimum 18 inches for Level 1; minimum 24 inches for Level 2; recommended
	maximum depth is 36 inches for both.
	Media mixed on site or supplied by vendor for Level 1, but <i>must</i> be supplied by vendor for Level 2
	P-index: Between 20 and 30 for a media mix, OR between 7 and 21 mg/kg of P in the soil
	media (see Section 6.6 of Stormwater Design Specification No. 9)
	Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC): Soils with a CEC exceeding 10 are preferred for pollutant removal.
	Infiltration Rate: Between 1 to 2 inches per hour
	Media mix: Equivalent to loamy sand, with the following composition:
	85% to 88% sand
	8% to 12% soil fines 3% to 5% organic matter
	Mulch cover: 2 to 3-inch layer composed of shredded, aged hardwood bark mulch
	_ Underdrain:
	Level 1: Corrugated HDPE or equivalent Level 2: Corrugated HDPE or equivalent, with a minimum 6-inch stone sump below the invert;
	OR none, if soil infiltration requirements are met
	A minimum of 3 inches of VDOT #57 clean washed stone (less than 1% passing a #200 sieve)
	must be laid and packed above and below the pipe.
-	Cleanouts are <i>not</i> needed In cold climates (winter or otherwise) it is advisable to extend the filter bed and underdrain pipe below
	the frost line and/or oversize the underdrain by on pipe size to reduce the potential for freezing.
	_ Vegetation:
	Level 1: Turf or herbaceous cover (alternative to mulch), or shrubs (minimum 1 of these 3 choices)
	Level 2: Turf or herbaceous cover (alternative to mulch), shrubs, or trees (minimum 2 of these
	4 choices)
2. Sta	ndard Bioretention Filter or Bioretention Basin
	Pre-treatment:
	Level 1: A pre-treatment cell, grass filter strip, gravel diaphragm, gravel flow spreader, or
	another approved (manufactured) pre-treatment device. Level 2: A pre-treatment cell <i>plus</i> one of the following: a grass filter strip, gravel diaphragm,
	gravel flow spreader, or another approved (manufactured) pre-treatment device.
-	Inflow: From sheet flow, curb cuts, trench drains, concentrated flow, or the equivalent
	Maximum ponding depth: 6 inches (preferred) to 12 inches. NOTE: Ponding depths greater than 6
	inches will require a specific planting plan to ensure appropriate plant selection. Show the elevations of treatment volume and maximum design water surface elevations for all
-	appropriate design storms and safety storms
	Show the facility rim elevations: constructed height and settled height (allowing for 10% settlement).
	Ensure adequate freeboard Provide a typical grading section through the facility
-	Filter media:
	Depth: minimum 24 inches for Level 1; minimum 36 inches for Level 2; recommended
	maximum depth is 6 feet for both.
	Media mixed on site or supplied by vendor for Level 1, but <i>must</i> be supplied by vendor for Level 2
	P-index: Between 20 and 30 for a media mix, OR between 7 and 21 mg/kg of P in the soil
	media (see Section 6.6 of Stormwater Design Specification No. 9)
	Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC): Soils with a CEC exceeding 10 are preferred for pollutant removal.
	Infiltration Rate: Between 1 to 2 inches per hour

	Media mix: Equivalent to loamy sand, with the following composition:
	85% to 88% sand
	8% to 12% soil fines
	3% to 5% organic matter
	Mulch cover: 2 to 3-inch layer composed of shredded, aged hardwood bark mulch Underdrain:
	Level 1: Schedule 40 PVC with clean-outs Level 2: Schedule 40 PVC with clean-outs and with a minimum 12-inch stone sump below the
	invert; OR none, if soil infiltration requirements are met
	A minimum of 3 inches of VDOT #57 clean washed stone (less than 1% passing a #200 sieve)
	must be laid and packed above and below the pipe.
	In cold climates (winter or otherwise) it is advisable to extend the filter bed and underdrain pipe below
	the frost line and/or oversize the underdrain by on pipe size to reduce the potential for freezing.
	Conveyance and Overflow:
	For on-line bioretention: Incorporate an overflow structure to safely convey larger storms
	through the bioretention area. The following criteria apply to overflow structures:
	The overflow associated with the 2-year and 10-year design storms should be
	controlled so that velocities are non-erosive at the outlet point (to prevent downstream
	erosion)
	Common overflow systems within bioretention practices consist of an inlet structure,
	where the top of the structure is placed at the maximum water surface elevation of the
	bioretention area, which is typically 6 to 12 inches above the surface of the filter bed (6
	inches is preferred).
	The overflow capture device (typically a yard inlet) should be scaled to the application;
	this may be a landscape grate inlet or a commercial-type structure.
	The filter bed surface should generally be flat so the bioretention area fills up like a
	bathtub.
	For off-line bioretention (preferred): Create an alternate flow path at the inflow point into the
	structure so that when the maximum ponding depth is reached, the incoming flow is diverted
	past the facility (so that the excess flows do not pass over the filter bed and through the
	facility, but additional flow is able to enter as the ponding water filters through the soil media).
	Vegetation:
	Level 1: A planting template to include turf or herbaceous cover (alternative to mulch), shrubs,
	and/or trees to achieve surface area coverage of at least 75% within 2 years.
	Level 2: A planting template to include turf or herbaceous cover (alternative to mulch), shrubs,
	and/or trees to achieve surface area coverage of at least 90% within 2 years. If using turf, it
	must be combined with other vegetation.
	must be combined with other vegetation.
3 Urk	oan Bioretention (planters, etc.)
0. 0	Pre-treatment (keep in mind the aesthetic qualities of the visible materials):
	A pre-treatment cell, grass filter strip, gravel diaphragm, gravel flow spreader, or another
	approved (manufactured) pre-treatment device.
	A trash rack between the pre-treatment cell and the main filter bed, allowing trash to be
	collected from a single location.
	Trash racks across curb cuts, keeping trash in the gutter, accessible to street-sweeping
	equipment.
	A pre-treatment area above the ground or a manhole or removable grate directly over the pre-
	treatment area.
	Inflow: From sheet flow, curb cuts, trench drains, roof drains, concentrated flow, or the equivalent
	Inlets should be stabilized with VDOT #3 stone, a splash block, river stone, or another acceptable
	energy dissipation measure.
	Surface slope: 1% toward the outlet, unless a stormwater planter is used. Maximum pending depth: 6 inches (preferred) to 12 inches NOTE: Pending depths greater than 6
	Maximum ponding depth: 6 inches (preferred) to 12 inches. NOTE: Ponding depths greater than 6
	inches will require a specific planting plan to ensure appropriate plant selection.

Filter media:
 Depth: minimum 30 inches; recommended maximum depth is 4 feet. NOTE: If large trees and
shrubs are planted, the <i>minimum</i> depth should be 4 feet.
Media mixed on site or supplied by vendor for Level 1, but <i>must</i> be supplied by vendor for
Level 2
P-index: Between 20 and 30 for a media mix, <i>OR</i> between 7 and 21 mg/kg of P in the soil media (see Section 6.6 of Stormwater Design Specification No. 9)
Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC): Soils with a CEC exceeding 10 are preferred for pollutant
removal.
Infiltration Rate: Between 1 to 2 inches per hour
Media mix: Equivalent to loamy sand, with the following composition:
85% to 88% sand
8% to 12% soil fines
3% to 5% organic matter
Filter media in a box should be extended from one wall to within 6 inches of the opposite wall, and it may be centered in the box or offset to one side.
Filter media must be separated from the soil by non-woven geotextile fabric or a 2 to 3 inch
layer of either washed VDOT #8 stone or 1/8 to 3/8-inch pea gravel.
Mulch cover: 2 to 3-inch layer composed of shredded, aged hardwood bark mulch.
 Waterproof stormwater planters near building foundations by using a watertight concrete shell or an
impermeable liner, to prevent seepage.
 Expanded tree pits:
The bottom of the soil/media layer must be a minimum of 4 inches below the root ball of trees and shrubs being planted.
Where portions of extended tree pits are covered with permeable pavers or cantilevered
sidewalks, ensure the filter media is connected beneath these surfaces so roots can share the
space.
Installing a removable tree pit grate (capable of supporting H-20 axel loads) over the filter bed
media can prevent pedestrian traffic and trash accumulation.
Low, wrought iron fences can help restrict pedestrian traffic across the tree pit bed and protect pedestrians where there is a drop-off from the sidewalk to the bioretention cell.
Each tree needs a minimum of 400 cubic feet of shared root space.
Stormwater Curb Extensions: It may be necessary to provide a barrier to keep water from saturating
 the adjacent road or street's sub-base and ensure it continues to be capable of supporting H-20 axel
loads.
 Underdrain:
Slotted Schedule 40 PVC pipe greater than 4 inches in diameter, with clean-outs.
A minimum of 2 inches of VDOT #57 clean washed stone (less than 1% passing a #200 sieve) must be laid and packed above and below the pipe.
Minimum underdrain pipe slope is 0.5%.
Overflows can either be diverted from entering the bioretention cell or dealt with via an overflow inlet.
 Optional methods include:
Curb openings sized to capture only the treatment volume and bypass higher flows through
the existing gutter.
Landscaping-type inlets or standpipes with trash guards.
Apre-treatment chamber with a weir design that limits flow to the filter bed area. Any grates used above Urban Bioretention areas must be removable to allow maintenance access.
 Stencil or otherwise permanently mark each Urban Bioretention unit as a "stormwater management
 facility," indicating that (1) it has a water quality protection purpose, (2) it may pond briefly after a
storm, and (3) it is not to be disturbed except for required maintenance.
 Vegetation:
Urban Bioretention cells can vary from formal gardens or naturalized landscapes, depending
on the degree of landscape maintenance that can be provided Where loss frequent maintenance may be available and trash accumulation is a concern use
Where less frequent maintenance may be available and trash accumulation is a concern, use a "turf and trees" landscape model, perhaps including some herbaceous flowering plants.

	 Choose native trees and shrubs known to be hearty in the polluted air and compacted soils of urban settings, although some ornamental species can be used. Selected vegetation must be tolerant of road salts, drought, and inundation.
C	Landscape Plan Consider the importance of aesthetics and visual characteristics (foliage form, texture, color, etc.) Consider visibility, traffic considerations and other safety issues Provide a planting schedule and specifications (transport / storage / installation / maintenance) Plant selection should be appropriate for the site's vegetation climatic zone (4-8 in Virginia), emphasizing native species Check whether future tree canopy heights associated with Urban Bioretention practices will interfere with existing overhead utility lines. Specify preservation measures for existing vegetation The construction contract should include a Care and Replacement Warranty that specifies a minimum survival for species planted of 75% after the first growing season, and a minimum effective ground cover of 75% for flat roofs and 90% for pitched roofs.
D.	Ecological Considerations Consider sun and wind exposure Consider the effects upon bioretention area from adjacent plant communities Wildlife benefits appropriate for the location may be included in plant material layout Consider any insect and disease infestation at or near the facility site
E. —	Construction Notes Planned bioretention areas should be clearly marked off and remain <i>outside</i> the limits of land disturbance during construction to prevent soil compaction by heavy equipment. Bioretention areas <i>may</i> be used during construction as sites for temporary sediment traps or basins, provided the construction plans include notes and graphical details specifying the following: The maximum excavation depth at the construction stage must be at least 1 foot above the post-construction installation. The facility must contain an underdrain. Showing the proper procedures for converting the temporary sediment controls to a permanent bioretention facility, including dewatering, cleanout and stabilization. Provide traffic control to avoid tracking mud and fine sediment into the facility and compacting the soil. Store materials in a protected area to keep them free from mud, dirt and other foreign materials. Obtain filter media from an approved vendor and store it on an adjacent impervious area or on plastic sheeting. Where any Urban Bioretention facilities are constructed in the road or right-of-way, the construction sequence may need to be adjusted to account for traffic control, pedestrian access and utility notification.
	Construction sequence: Construction inspections should occur before, during and after installation to ensure the bioretention facility is constructed according to specifications. Use detailed inspection checklists that require sign-offs by qualified individuals at critical states of construction, to ensure the contractor's interpretation of the plan is consistent with the designer's intent. Check the proposed site for existing utilities prior to any excavation. The designer and the installer/contractor should have a pre-construction meeting, checking the boundaries of the CDA and the actual inlet elevations to ensure they conform to the original design. The designer should clearly communicate, in writing, any project changes determined during the pre-construction meeting to the installer and the plan review/inspection authority.

 Construction of the bioretention facility should begin only after site work is completed and the
entire contributing drainage area has been stabilized with dense and healthy vegetation.
 It may be necessary to block certain curb or other inlets while the bioretention area is being
constructed.
 Temporary E&S control measures (typically silt fence, diversion berms, EC fabric, etc.) to
prevent sediment from moving into the filter media or stone base material during construction),
to avoid clogging (particularly if the practice relies on infiltration), and to protect the facility's
vulnerable side slopes from erosion during construction.
 Ensure that pre-treatment structures are properly installed and working effectively.
Excavators or backhoes (with arms with adequate extension) should work from the sides to
excavate the reservoir layer to its appropriate design depth and dimensions.
Contractors should use a cell construction approach in larger bioretention basins, with
the basin split into 500 to 1,000 sq. ft. temporary cells with a 10 to 15 foot earth bridge
in between each cell, so that cells can be excavated from the side.
The floor of the facility should be completely level, but equipment should be kept off
the floor to prevent soil compaction.
It may be necessary to rip the bottom soils to a depth of 6 to 12 inches to promote
greater infiltration.
 Correctly install geotextile fabric on the excavation sides.
Trim large tree roots flush with the sides of the excavation to prevent puncturing or
tearing of the filter fabric.
When laying out the geotextile, the width should include sufficient material to
compensate for perimeter irregularities in the trench and for a 6-inch minimum overlap
at the top of the excavation.
Place stones or other anchoring objects on the fabric at the trench sides to keep the
trench open during windy periods.
Place natural soils in any voids that occur between the fabric and the excavated sides
of the trench, to ensure the fabric conforms smoothly to the sides of the excavation.
 Install and anchor the observation well(s) and, if used, install the underdrains.
Check aggregate material prior to installation to confirm that it is clean and washed
and meets specifications and is installed to the correct depth
Check elevations (underdrain inverts, inflow and outflow point inverts, depth of
aggregate installations, etc.) and the surface slope.
Provide the correct depth and type of aggregate above and below the underdrains.
Underdrains should slope down towards the outlet at a grade of 0.5% or steeper.
Up-gradient ends of underdrains in the reservoir layer should be capped, but <i>not</i> the
downstream ends.
Where an underdrain pipe is connected to a structure, there must be <i>no</i> perforations
within 1 foot of the structure.
Ensure there are no perforations in clean-outs and observation wells within 1 foot of
the surface. Place approximately 3 inches of choker stone/pea gravel on the stone above the underdrain(s)
 as a filter between the underdrain stone layer and the soil filter media.
Place the filter media by hand (to avoid compaction and maintain porosity) in 12-inch lifts, with
 no machinery allowed directly on the media surface during or after construction, until the
design top elevation is achieved.
Overfill the media above the proposed finished surface elevation to allow for natural
settling. Lifts may be lightly watered to encourage settling.
After the final lift is placed, rake the media to level it, saturate it, and allow it to settle
for at least one week prior to installing plant materials. Check for settlement and add
additional media, if needed, to achieve the design elevation.
Prepare planting holes for any trees and shrubs, install the vegetation, and water accordingly.
 Install any temporary irrigation equipment.

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design. If coir or jute matting will be used instead of mulch, the matting will need to be installed prior to planting, and holes or slits will have to be cut in the matting to install the
plants Install the plant materials as shown in the landscaping plan, and water them during weeks of no rain for the first two months following installation.
The construction contract should include a Care and Replacement Warranty to ensure that vegetation is properly established and survives during the first growing season following construction.
 Implement any remaining permanent stabilization measures. Log the GPS coordinates for each facility and submit them for entry into the local BMP maintenance tracking database.
 E. Maintenance Items (can include BMP Operation & Maintenance Inspection Checklists from Chapter 9, Appendix 9-C of this Handbook) Provide a Maintenance Agreement, indicating the person or organization responsible for maintenance,
authorizing access for inspections and maintenance, and including a maintenance inspection checklist. Include a Maintenance Narrative which describes the long-term maintenance requirements of the facility and all components, including removal and disposal of trash, debris and sediment accumulations, periodic replacement of soil media, care of the vegetation, and mowing. Record a deed restriction, drainage easement, and/or other enforceable mechanism, including GPS coordinates of the area, to ensure the bioretention areas are not disturbed or converted to other uses. Provide sufficient facility access from the public ROW or roadway to both the bioretention facility and any pre-treatment practices.
IV. COMMENTS

Ву:	Date: